

REMARKS

In Paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the parent patent, U.S. Patent 6,253,198, had expired due to failure to pay the maintenance fee, and that the reissue could not be allowed and all claims must be rejected as lacking basis for reissue.

In Paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-14 were rejected as being based on a defective reissue declaration, the nature of the defects set forth above.

A Petition to Accept Unintentionally Delayed Payment of Maintenance Fee in an Expired Patent (US 6,253,198) was promptly filed to reinstate the parent patent, but after several months, a decision was not received. A Request For Supervisory Authority To Determine Status was filed. Finally, in response to the status request, the Decision to accept the maintenance fee was granted and the parent Patent 6,253,198 has been reinstated. A copy of the response to the Status Request, the Decision, Maintenance Fee Statement, and Bibliographic Data in the parent patent, are attached.

This response to this Office Action is being submitted immediately upon receipt of the response to the Status Request and the Decision, and the delay in responding to the Office Action was unavoidable due to failure of the PTO to issue the Decision on the Petition.

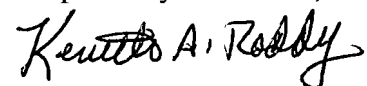
The rules provide that if the maintenance fee is accepted after the six-month grace period, the patent shall be considered as not having expired at the end of the grace period. The bibliographic data of Patent 6,253,198 now indicates that the Patent was reinstated 6/27/05.

With regard to the rejections in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that reinstatement of the parent Patent 6,253,198 should overcome the rejection of all claims as lacking basis for reissue, and the rejection of claims 1-14 as being based on a defective reissue declaration.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing explanations and remarks, it is respectfully requested that this amendment and accompanying documents be entered, and that claims 1-14 be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

2916 West T. C. Jester
Suite 100
Houston, TX 77018
(713) 686-7676

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth A. Roddy
Agent for Applicant
Registration No. 31,294